

Oil ministers make progress in talks

LONDON (R) — Key OPEC oil ministers have made substantial progress in resolving differences that have blocked agreement to cut their official oil price below an unrealistic level which has driven away many clients, Kuwait's Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said Sunday. All 13 member states are due to attend a meeting here Monday following intensive consultations among a group of ministers and their experts trying to narrow differences on price and production levels. OPEC ministers last met in January in Geneva where they failed to agree on how best to tackle the oil glut which has more than halved their sales in the past three years.

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Arafat leaves for New Delhi

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat left Riyadh for New Delhi Sunday to head the Palestine Liberation Organisation's delegation to the non-aligned summit due to start Monday, the official Saudi press agency said. Mr. Arafat, who had talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia Saturday night, was quoted by Riyadh radio as saying that a Palestinian working paper to be submitted to the summit would be based on an Arab Middle East peace plan. He also said he had briefed the Saudi leader on the outcome of last month's meeting of the Palestine National Council (Parliament) in Algiers.

China, Soviets to discuss trade ties

MOSCOW (R) — Chinese Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Jia Shi arrived in Moscow Sunday for talks on developing trade between the two countries. The official news agency TASS said the Chinese official was met on arrival by Soviet Deputy Trade Minister Ivan Grishin, but it gave no other details. The trade talks, expected to last two weeks, began a week after deputy foreign ministers from the two countries began a second round of consultations in Moscow on improving relations. According to Chinese diplomats, however, the two issues are separate. Trade talks have been held each year despite strained relations between the two states.

U.S. farm exports may be affected by world recession

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States cannot expect to increase farm exports until at least the end of 1984, Agriculture Secretary John Block said Sunday. He said this was due to the worldwide recession, the relative strength of the dollar, aggressive export policies of competing countries and the European Community's export subsidies.

South Africa detains Catholic nun

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police have detained a Catholic nun and confiscated books from a convent near Krugersdorp, 25 kms west of here, the South African Press Association (SAPA) said Sunday. The agency quoted nuns at the companions of Saint Angela Convent as saying police went there at 3 a.m. on Friday, but left after being told no males were allowed in the precincts. They returned three hours later, detained 43-year-old Sister Bernard Ncube and took away several books, SAPA said.

Pope arrives in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Pope John Paul Sunday arrived in El Salvador, potentially one of the most perilous stops of his Central American tour, and praised the U.S.-backed government's latest moves to end a bloody civil war. In a speech of welcome at San Salvador's military airport, President Alvaro Magana told the Pope his visit coincided with new efforts to bring peace to a country where 40 months of civil war have claimed an estimated 42,000 lives. The president singled out the formation earlier this week of a three-man peace commission charged with drafting an amnesty law to provide firm guarantees for the safety of leftist guerrillas laying down their arms.

Kohl wins landslide victory

BONN (R) — Conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl won a landslide general election victory Sunday and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) slumped to their worst result since 1961, reliable computer forecasts said.

Forecasts on both national television channels gave Mr. Kohl's alliance of Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU) around 49 per cent of the vote. It was not immediately clear whether the CDU/CSU had won an absolute majority of parliamentary seats or whether they would need to renew a coalition with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats (FDP), who were winning around seven per cent.

Both forecasts gave the Social Democrats 38.2 per cent of the vote and showed the radical, anti-nuclear Greens Party slipping into parliament with just over the minimum five per cent.

Crushed by jubilant supporters at CDU headquarters chanting "Helmut, Helmut", Mr. Kohl claimed victory and said the voters

had given him a mandate to continue "a policy of the centre." Social Democratic challenger Hans-Jochen Vogel conceded defeat shortly afterwards. He congratulated the chancellor and pledged constructive opposition in the new parliament.

The margin of victory, after a hard-fought campaign dominated by unemployment and nuclear missiles, was greater than most opinion polls had forecast. Television commentators called the outcome sensational.

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian state premier, declined to say in a television interview whether he would press for the post of foreign minister in the new government.

But his supporters laughed and cheered when he said: "I'm flying to Bonn tomorrow."

Arab states lobby for Gulf plan

NEW DELHI (R) — Gulf Arab states tried to push through a new plan to end the Gulf war Sunday while Egypt told Libya and Syria it was ready for a showdown at the non-aligned summit.

Egypt, responding to a campaign by Arab radicals to suspend or even expel it from the movement for signing a peace treaty with Israel, said it would hit back hard at any move to discredit it before nearly 100 government leaders meeting Monday.

"We shall hit blow for blow without mercy at any attempt to portray Egypt as an Arab delinquent," Cairo Foreign Ministry spokesman Raouf Ghoneim told Reuters.

"If any resolution containing an attack on Egypt, either from Libya or Syria, is submitted to the summit for voting, then Egypt will strike back fiercely," he added.

Egypt, ostracised by most Arab states since the 1979 peace treaty, threw down the gauntlet as the Non-Aligned Movement prepared for tough talking on the Gulf war after shelving a bitter dispute over Kampuchea.

Six Arab countries lobbied other delegations to support their formula for ending 30 months of fighting between Iran and Iraq.

But conference sources said the group—Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates—would have difficulty winning summit endorsement because the plan sought United Nations sanctions on Iran or Iraq if either refused to accept the terms.

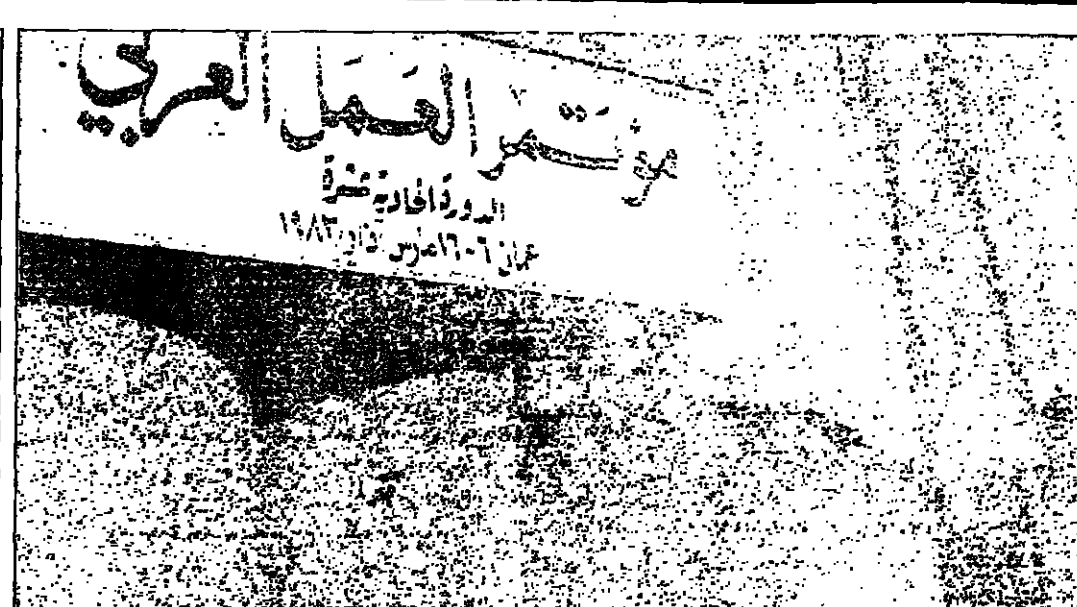
The majority of U.N. members are in New Delhi for the seventh non-aligned summit and the sources said they doubted whether this aspect of the plan would be acceptable to most delegations.

Iraq has agreed to go along with the proposals, which call for an immediate ceasefire, a pull-back to pre-war boundaries, reparations to both combatants and a U.N. force to guarantee the peace.

Iranian delegates dismissed the plan saying it was not worth putting to their leaders. All previous attempts to end the war have failed, including mediation by the Non-Aligned Movement.

Meanwhile the Western Sahara dispute, the most divisive in pan-African politics, returns to haunt African leaders at the non-aligned summit.

Rows over the former Spanish colony have paralysed the organisation of African Unity (OAU) for a year and may re-surface when the summit discusses the Western Sahara. African diplomats said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, inaugurates the 11th Arab Labour Conference in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

Hassan opens 11th Arab Labour Conference

Crown Prince renews call for Arab common labour market

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday stressed the need to implement the constitution of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) which aims at the creation of a common Arab labour market.

The ALO constitution provides for coordination among Arab states in labour-related issues, and calls for guarantees of trade unions' freedoms and rights, and for the standardisation of Arab labour legislations.

Prince Hassan was speaking at the opening of the 11th session of the Arab Labour Conference which will last until March 16. Nineteen out of the 21 Arab countries, which comprise the membership of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), will attend the 11-day conference at a ministerial level.

In his opening speech, Prince Hassan proposed the establishment of an international fund to finance the training of unskilled labourers planning to move to other countries. "Such a fund should be financed by countries which import labour in proportion with the volume of their needs," he explained.

Prince Hassan said he had proposed the creation of such a fund at the 63rd International Labour Conference in 1977 when he spoke about the movement of labour force, and on the cooperation between rich and poor nations in relation to such matters.

"The country which exports skilled labourers faces the burden of paying for the training of the labour force, and, by losing this important element in its economy, the exporting country stands to suffer," Prince Hassan pointed out.

Prince Hassan also spoke about Jordan's experience in development, and outlined the government's endeavours in implementing the different development projects which include the establishment of services and basic industries. In its struggle to realise its aspirations, the country has been helped financially by sister Arab nations and their skilled labour force and businessmen and employers, Prince Hassan pointed out.

But, he said, the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the

Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights

has imposed an additional burden on the country. The Israelis have continuously confiscated Arab property, depriving the Arab inhabitants and labourers of their rights, and is constantly trying to link their economy with that of the West Bank and Gaza.

Prince Hassan said. Despite all this Jordan continues both to help the Arab inhabitants under Israeli occupation and to market West Bank agricultural products in Jordan.

Furthermore, he said, Jordan is bearing an additional burden in relation to the Palestinians because the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has been reducing its services to the refugees and displaced Palestinians. However, he added, this challenge has prompted Jordan to double its efforts aimed at reconstruction and development.

Prince Hassan called on the Arabs to increase their support and assistance for the just struggle of the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli aggressive policies. He also reiterated Jordan's total support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation which "we consider the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

Jordan has invariably honoured its national commitments and provided all possible facilities to restore Arab rights in Palestine, said Prince Hassan.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, Prince Hassan expressed the hope that the New Delhi non-aligned

summit will pass resolutions to facilitate the ending of the war.

Prince Hassan called for further Arab economic cooperation in the face of mounting difficulties resulting from the international economic crisis.

Prince Hassan called upon the conference to focus attention on the needs of Palestinians in the occupied territories by taking practical decisions and outlining steps to defending them against Israeli violations of Arab labour rights.

At the ALO opening session, Dr. Jawad Al Anani, minister of labour, also delivered a speech in which he said "it is a great honour for this conference to have royal patronage, which comes in recognition of the conference's importance and in support of its ambitions for a future where all humans will be honoured and respected."

He pointed out that all the agenda subjects to be discussed are interrelated, "we are determined to debate objectively as one nation, and by taking into account the diversity of opinions we hope to achieve the optimum answers."

All labour groups in Jordan, everyone who helped organise the conference and its participants are very anxious to make sure that it fulfils its aspirations," he said.

The ALO is also attended by 300 delegates from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Federation of Arab Trade Unions, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Hussein arrives in New Delhi

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and the accompanying Jordanian delegation arrived in New Delhi Sunday to participate in the seventh non-aligned summit scheduled to begin Monday.

King Hussein was met at the airport by Indian President Zail Singh and high ranking Indian officials.

King Hussein is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khammash and Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem will join the delegation in the Indian capital.

Mubarak attacks PLO

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak has attacked the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for what he called its interference in Egyptian affairs.

"I will never accept their (PLO) interference in our internal affairs... it is totally rejected," Mr. Mubarak said.

Any prospects for a meeting in New Delhi between Mr. Mubarak and PLO leader Yasser Arafat faded as a result of the president's remarks.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to Egyptian parliamentarians Saturday, was quoted by the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram as saying: "Some Palestinian leaders are trying to drive a wedge between the government and the Egyptian people by urging the PLO to promote relations with Egypt's nationalist forces."

Mr. Mubarak reminded PLO leaders of the presence in Egypt of more than 45,000 Palestinians, including students and merchants.

"I will order to anyone who attacks Egypt," Mr. Mubarak was quoted by Al-Ahram as saying.

Commenting on reports from New Delhi of a possible meeting to be held there by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Arafat, the paper said: "President Mubarak is not seeking a meeting with anybody."

In Delhi, Mr. Mubarak is expected to discuss Middle East peace efforts with other non-aligned leaders.

He has already announced his support for President Reagan's peace initiative.

U.S. making 'incredible fuss' about Soviet missiles in Syria, says Pravda

MOSCOW (R) — Pravda said Sunday the United States was making an "incredible fuss" about the siting of Soviet-made air defence missile systems in Syria and accused Washington of wanting to keep its troops in Lebanon.

The Communist Party daily said U.S. complaints about the new surface-to-air missile batteries reflected a double standard in viewing the requirements of Israel on

the one hand and Arab countries

on the other.

"The former is allowed to have any weapons it wants and there are no obstacles to delivery," it said.

But when it comes to the defence needs of the countries opposed to Israel, victims of its aggression, the U.S. makes an incredible fuss."

U.S. officials say four batteries

of SAM-5 missiles have been set up in Syria and are manned by about 800 Soviet personnel.

They voiced concern that this could mean that future fighting in the region would turn into a super-power crisis.

Pravda made no comment on the U.S. reports that Soviet military were manning the missile sites and gave no details about the equipment involved.

Moderate turnout at French elections

PARIS (R) — Watched closely by both President Francois Mitterrand's 21-month-old Socialist government and opposition parties for signs of public sentiment, French voters Sunday began choosing municipal councils that will manage their local affairs for the next six years.

First reports from polling stations indicated a moderate turnout among some 36 million eligible voters to select from more than 1.5 million candidates, including most cabinet ministers. Council seats in all of the country's 36,433 villages, towns and cities are at stake.

The two-round election—the second round takes place next Sunday—follows a tough, two-month campaign by left- and right-wing political groupings.

The results, particularly from the 221 cities which have populations over 30,000, are seen by both left and right as a referendum on Socialist policies.

The "message" from the electorate, combined with the results of Sunday's West German elections, could prove crucial for the immediate fate of the French franc, twice devalued since Mr. Mitterrand came to power in 1981 and again under heavy pressure.

Polls were closing Sunday between five and eight p.m. (1600 and 1900 GMT), depending on area and first results were expected shortly after the last ones shut.

A victory in Sunday's West German general election by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative coalition is expected by financial experts here to strengthen confidence in that country's much heal their economy.

While the French Central Bank was spending heavily last week to support the franc in the European Monetary System (EMS), Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy twice issued denials that there would be a third devaluation in less than two years.

But the financial experts said the return of Chancellor Kohl's government would increase pressure for an EMS adjustment.

The French government is expected to introduce new austerity measures soon to curb a soaring trade deficit and bring inflation down from its current annual rate of 10 per cent.

For the effective vote of censure for the Socialist and Communist majority in central government in the municipal elections would probably force Mr. Mitterrand to modify his plans and give some ground to a section of the Socialist Party calling for import curbs and deflation.

The Gaullist RPR Party, led by Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, and the UDF centrist grouping, whose figurehead is former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, have been calling on the electorate to "deliver a warning" to the government, which does not face parliamentary elections again until 1986.

Palestinian, Israeli talks on POW exchange suspended

DAMASCUS (R) — Delicate negotiations on an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have been suspended, a senior PLO official said Sunday.

The official, who declined to be identified, said contacts which the PLO had been holding with Israel through the Austrian government and the International Committee of the Red Cross had "stumbled and stopped."

"These contacts have halted with no positive result achieved," he added. The official said a PLO delegation which had been handling the issue had returned to Damascus from Vienna.

The PLO said a week ago it was hoping to find out within two days when the exchange might take place. The guerrillas were asking

for the release of some 6,500 Palestinians and Lebanese in exchange for eight Israelis captured in Lebanon last September.

About 1,000 of the prisoners the PLO wants are in Israeli jails and the rest are in a prison camp at Ansar in South Lebanon.

Meanwhile a pro-Syrian commando group said it was holding separate contacts on a prisoner exchange through the International Red Cross in Damascus.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), Fadi Shrourou, told reporters that his group refused to take part in any contacts through Austria and would not comply with any agreement reached that way.

PLO sources have said the PFLP-GC is holding two Israelis and the mainstream Fatah organisation has six. Mr. Shrourou said the PFLP-GC was holding more than two Israeli prisoners.

He declined to give any details and said his group would not allow the Red Cross or anyone else to visit the prisoners it was holding until the Israelis handed over a list of Palestinians taken from the Ansar camp in South Lebanon into Israel.

Mr. Shrourou said more than 150 Palestinians, including important PLO figures, had been taken to Israel. He said the PFLP-GC had received a list of 90 names through the International Red Cross but was waiting for more.

Italy cracks down on mafia clans

PALERMO, Sicily (R) — Police said Sunday they smashed several mafia clans when they arrested 834 suspected gangsters in southern Italy Saturday in a vast operation using 8,700 Paramilitary Carabinieri.

Police said they recovered 291 stolen cars and one billion lire (\$715,000) in stolen money, seized 175 shotguns and military rifles and 140 hand guns, and impounded explosives and drugs.

Police backed by dogs and helicopters caught 548 people in the act of crimes and arrested 286 on existing warrants.

"We struck a hard blow against

organised crime," a police officer said. "We have broken up various clans and struck at the heart of rackets in certain areas of the south."

Police were worried Sunday by the news that a man arrested in Sicily last month had secret information compiled by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The fact that the mafia apparently has access to secret files is disturbing for agents whose lives are already under constant threat, police said.

Francesco De Matteo, wanted on a minor charge of aiding and

abetting a mafioso, was arrested in February on his return from visiting relatives in Zurich.

Police said he had a photocopy of a confidential DEA document concerning surveillance of suspected drugs traffickers between Italy, Latin America and the United States.

After gunmen murdered a general, Carlo Alberio Dalla Alto, in Sicily last September, parliament passed a new anti-mafia law which facilitated Saturday's mass swoop.

The new law enables investigators to probe financial links, banks and channels used tolau-

nder drugs earnings, and present as evidence their findings, previously inadmissible.

The law responds to the changed style of mafia bosses who now operate like multinational executives, with lawyers and financial experts.

Few big names figured among the suspected gangsters netted in Saturday's operation, but among them was the 17-year-old son of an alleged Naples mafia boss, Luigi Vollano, known as the Califf because of an alleged "harem" in his villa stronghold on the slopes of Mount Vesuvius.

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Arab League
finance committee
meeting March 14

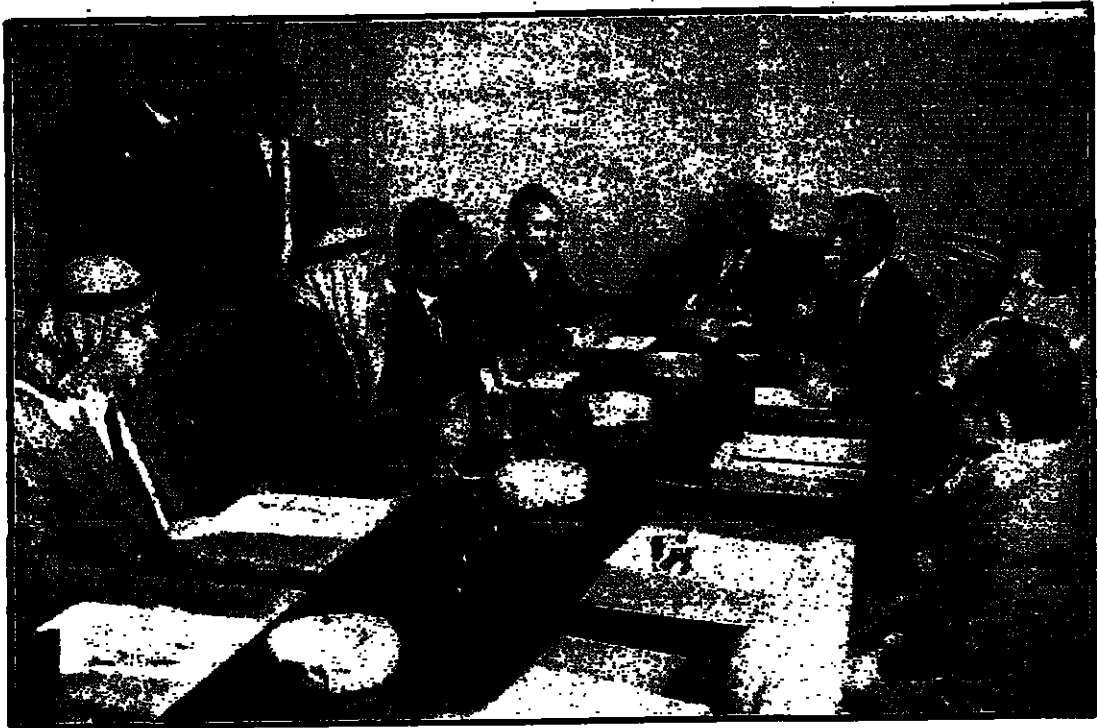
AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the meetings of the Arab League's Administrative and Financial Standing Committee which are expected to start in Tunis on March 14.

The committee will discuss, during its week-long meetings, a number of subjects connected with the Arab League's financial position, a request by the Lebanese government to be exempt from paying its contribution to the Arab League's general budget for the current year, the Arab League's contribution to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and a number of other topics. Jordan's delegation consists of two senior officials attached to the Jordanian embassy in Tunisia.

AOAD receives
Jordan's subs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture is transferring the sum of \$49,295 to the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in Tunis which represents Jordan's subscription to the AOAD.

On Saturday, the Arab League secretariat in Tunisia said that it received a transfer of \$110,500 from Jordan. This forms the first instalment of Jordan's financial contribution to the construction of the new Arab League building in Tunis. A secretariat announcement said that Jordan was the first Arab country to pay a part of its commitment for this project. Jordan's total contribution to the project amounts to \$331,500 which will be paid in three instalments. The total estimated cost of the building is \$3 million.



Representatives from the Friends of Salt Society, based in Kuwait, Sunday sign an agreement to build

a cultural centre in Salt to be paid for by the society (Petra photo).

Kuwaitis to build Salt centre

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed at the Housing Bank Sunday to establish a cultural centre in Salt, some 25 kilometres west of Amman. The project is to be carried out by the Friends of Salt Society (FSS) in Kuwait, and will be implemented by the Kuwaiti Al Nasiriah Construction Company.

Following the signing ceremony, FSS President Abdul Rahman Al Atiqi said that the project illustrates the true and strong ties existing between the Kuwaiti and Jordanian peoples. The Kuwaiti people believe in sparing no efforts for the sake of reconstructing the Arab homeland, Mr. Atiqi said. He added that the project will be financed by the FSS's members in Kuwait which represents a token of friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Atiqi, who is economic adviser to the Emir of Kuwait, said that the cultural centre envisaged in the plan will be constructed in the traditional architectural style existing in Salt, and expressed his appreciation to all those who had so far assisted with the project. Also speaking on the occasion was the Salt Development Cooperation (SDC) Board of Directors Chairman Jas'far Al Shami who paid tribute to the close and

friendly ties existing between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti peoples. He also thanked the FSS for financing the project.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Jordan, Ibrahim Al Baho, Housing Bank Director-General Zuhair Khouri, Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour and several SDC members.

After the ceremony Dr. Nsour told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the people of Salt are deeply grateful to the Kuwaitis for their support and their development projects.

The project will comprise of a cultural, social, educational and sports complex, with a hall seating a potential audience of 2,500, which can be used for seminars, lectures and as a theatre. The complex will have a public library, a vocational school and a mosque. Dr. Nsour added.

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HOME NEWS

IDB to finance new development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has decided to help finance the Jordanian maritime line and its timber projects, according to Finance Minister Salem Masa'deh.

Speaking on returning to Amman from a meeting in Jeddah of the bank's board of governors, Mr. Masa'deh said that discussion also centred on Jordanian projects which are being partly financed by IDB and those in which it will participate once the feasibility studies have been completed. Such projects include the greater Amman sewerage project, the national water supply network, Al Shidi'eh phosphates and the Jordan cement programme, Mr. Masa'deh said.

He said that the IDB governors, at their meeting which opened on March 1, reviewed the bank's activities and achievements in the Arab and Islamic nations, and endorsed a future plan of action.

IDB, established in 1975, has 42 members from Arab and Islamic countries. The major share holders are Saudi Arabia (26.22 per cent), Libya (16.38), the United Arab Emirates (14.42) and Kuwait (13.11).

Accompanying the finance minister to the Jeddah meeting was a team from the Central Bank of Jordan led by its Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi.

Meeting debates street selling

AMMAN (Petra) — Activities of the Amman business community were reviewed at a meeting Sunday attended by Amman Mayor

Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and Amman Chamber of Commerce council members.

The municipality will shortly assign a plot of land for street vendors who will have to pay licence fees in accordance with municipality regulations, Mr. Rawabdeh said. He added that a team of engineers are currently handling the problem of street pavements especially those directly in front of existing stores.

Both sides at the meeting expressed their readiness to launch close cooperation with the purpose of increasing and improving the level of public services in Amman.

During the meeting the council members representing the city traders submitted a number of demands.

Welfare fund to provide JD 10,000 for Madaba schemes

AMMAN (Petra) — Projects to be carried out in Madaba by the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF) were discussed at a meeting here Sunday in which the Madaba Mayor Ahmad Al Azaidi participated. A spokesman for the QAJWF committee responsible for overseeing the projects said that several working papers had been discussed by the committee members dealing with the proposed schemes.

The projects, to be implemented in Madaba, include a children's garden, and a centre for promoting the cultural and educational standards of women in the Madaba district. The overall cost of these projects will be about JD 10,000, the spokesman said.

King Talal Dam gates opened

AMMAN (Petra) — As a result of continuous rain-fall, the King Talal Dam is overflowing with water, and its gates have been opened to allow surplus water to flow in to the valley and surrounding fields below, according to a statement issued by the Public Security Department. The statement asked people not to go near the Zarga River close to the dam and the River Jordan.

Irbid to boost water supply

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid's water supply is to be boosted by a daily amount of 4,000 cubic metres raising its daily share to 27,000 cubic metres, according to a new project carried out by the Water Supply Corporation (WSC).

According to Mr. Rizk Ghuzlan, deputy director of the WSC's branch here, four new artesian wells in Al 'Aqab region have been connected by 24-inch pipes to the Irbid Governorate to meet its growing water requirements especially in the summer.

Jordan Times

Tel: 666265



The children of Amman celebrate yet another snowbound day off school in characteristic fashion (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Winter's worst depression begins to subside slowly

AMMAN (J.T.) — The depression which has affected the country over the past few days is the deepest of the winter, according to Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the Amman meteorological department. However, because it has now moved eastwards passed Turkey, weather conditions should improve, he added.

He also said that, as from Sunday evening, the effect of the depression will gradually recede, snow and rain will cease and temperatures will rise by Monday.

Meanwhile, Al Ra'i newspaper reported Sunday that four people were seriously hurt in the Amman area and tens of vehicles were damaged in the snow storm of the previous 24 hours.

An announcement by the Amman Municipality said that a

special committee has been formed to inspect areas damaged by the storm. This committee will tour various parts of Amman to make an estimation of the damage, and will also recommend measures to be taken to avoid such a recurrence. A spokesman for the municipality said that its workmen Sunday morning started work on clearing roads and culverts.

In Irbid, Governor Abed Khatib Daoudieh said that local authorities have taken all necessary measures to deal with any emergency in view of the snow storm. He said snow ploughs and other street cleaning equipment have been used by the public works service and the armed forces to remove snow and repair roads. Fortunately there were sufficient fuel supplies for heating and there were no reports of damage to property, Daoudieh said.

He also said that cooperation with the armed forces enabled the local authorities speedily to reopen roads leading to Jerash, Irbid, Mafrak, Sakeb and Ajloun, and work is underway to reopen the Amman-Jerash road which was blocked by a landslide.

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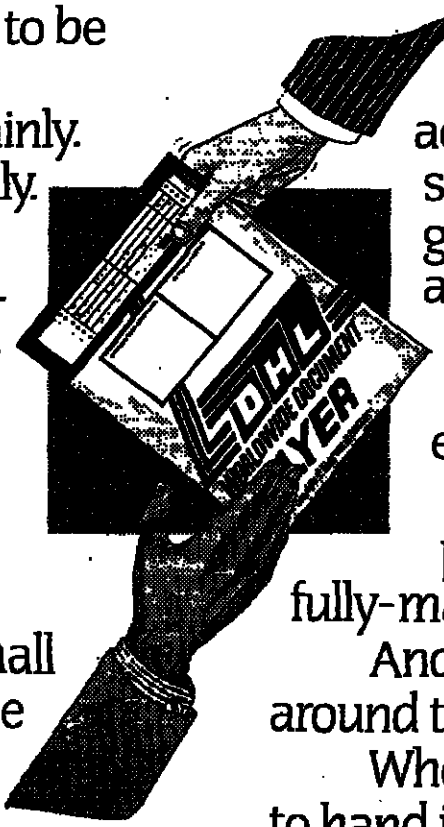
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Non-alignment — the story of success?

THE seventh conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, which is due to start in India today, has a broad range of regional and international conflicts and disputes to consider, but, above all, it has the non-aligned countries' own purpose of unity to cement and strengthen.

Issues ranging from the Palestine problem, the Iran-Iraq war, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, disarray in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the need for a new international economic order, to a settlement of the Namibian question and others are all important, and one way or the other the Delhi summit has to tackle them. What is most important, however, is the fact that unless the Third World as represented by its biggest political forum, acts in concert to reduce the impact of superpower rivalry on the rest of the world, the Non-Aligned Movement will continue to suffer from playing a secondary role in our lives and for the future.

Since the first non-aligned summit in Belgrade in 1961, the movement has grown from 25 countries to include 97 members now, with at least 60 heads of state or government attending the Delhi summit. Unfortunately, and for a number of reasons, this growth—although healthy and promising—has not been able to add all the weight necessary to make the struggle for global peace and equality realise its full objective. And that is why there is an urgent need today to take bigger steps towards achieving the aims and goals of non-alignment for which all human kind basically yearns.

It is both necessary and useful if the conference in the Indian capital this week indeed focuses on areas of agreements like disarmament, calling for an end to the accumulation of nuclear arms and policies of destabilisation and occupation directed at the Third World, and reform of world economic institutions in boosting cooperation between developing countries and promoting progress in the North-South dialogue on aid and trade. But it is also both right and imperative that participants come to grips with their own problems and seriously attempt to narrow their differences on many other important issues around the world.

How successful the seventh non-aligned summit will be depends largely on how willing, wise and far-sighted leaders of the Third World themselves can be. As much of the world's attention turns to New Delhi during the coming few days, we can only hope that non-alignment will remain the story of success it has largely been, and more, for we all badly need a strong third force.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan's key role in Delhi

His Majesty King Hussein, along with his accompanying delegation, visited Oman Saturday on the way to New Delhi to attend the non-aligned summit due to open Monday. The present summit is of special importance because of the sensitivity of the issues on its agenda, the chief ones of which are the Palestinian question and the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan has a vital role to play at the non-aligned summit. Jordan's main consideration at the conference is to rally the non-aligned nations to support the Palestinian cause, and to guarantee their backing for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian accord which is the key to peace and the freeing of the occupied Arab territories. The non-aligned nations will be urged to play a greater role in confronting Israeli terrorist acts against the Arab people both inside the occupied areas and without.

Jordan will also concentrate efforts on bringing to the conference's attention the dangers of the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, and the need for an effective and determined drive by the non-aligned nations to end the conflict as quickly as possible.

Jordan has invariably been an active non-aligned member of the movement, and is fully committed to the success of the conference in accomplishing its noble goals of reinforcing solidarity among its member-states, guaranteeing a better future for their peoples, and promoting world peace, social justice and stability.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel adopts new tactic

The Israeli terrorist practices in Lebanon reflects the aggressive mentality behind all the practices of the present Israeli ruling clique. They time and again prove to be unable to cut themselves free from their terrorist past. Their terrorist tendencies are simply a manifestation of the racist ideology they advocate, namely Zionism.

The new tactic adopted by the Israeli government is not astonishing in any way. They create, arm and let loose terrorist gangs of the Gush Emunim whose job is to terrorise the Arabs into deserting their homes. They impose a reign of terror, making life in the occupied Arab territories unbearable, and help to create a conducive atmosphere for the intensification of the settlement drive in these territories.

After the recent acceleration of these Zionist assaults against the Arabs, particularly in the Hebron area, the Israeli authorities had to admit that "underground terrorist organisations" do exist, and tried to present their activities as a reaction to and act of retaliation against Arab terrorism. The excuse that these gangs are of an underground nature is quite ironic. The leaders and members of such organisations are part of the ruling class, and they receive their arms and financing from the Israeli government.

It is quite obvious that the terrorist activities of such gangs goes hand in hand with the Israeli government's settlement plans. It is aimed at motivating the settlement process and giving a feeling of security, not to mention superiority, to the new settlers. The Palestinians are made to leave their homes, new lands are expropriated for "security" purposes, and a new wave of planting new "defence" settlements starts.

The Israeli ruling circles bear the responsibility for these acts of terrorism committed in the occupied Arab territories; it is they who must be made to answer for it.

DE FACTONOMICS

The Arab Labour Conference

By T.A. Jaber

The eleventh session of the Arab Labour Conference (ALC) opened yesterday in Amman under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The conference is held regularly every year. The level and number of delegates attending the present session were exceptional. All members of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) are attending and nineteen out of twentyone delegations are headed by ministers. Observers include delegations from the ILO, the Federation of Arab Trade Unions, the Organisation of African Unity, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Com-

merce, The Arab League and Others.

Three hundred delegates will over ten days discuss major labour issues. Oman has joined the ALO and will take part in the conference for the first time.

There are many factors behind the large turnout in Amman. First, Jordan has a unique labour market where every member country can find common areas of interest. It has a long experience being a labour-exporting country with all the resulting economic and social effects. Jordan has also resorted to imports of labour and can share with other Arab

countries its experience in regulating labour inflows.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has emphasised the particular significance of human resources in national development and international relations. In his key speech before the ILO conference in 1977 he put forward a proposal of creating an international labour compensation facility which continues to attract attention in many fora.

Institutionally, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) was established in 1976 and is now implementing an ambitious programme of constructing training centres. The

Social Security Corporation was created in 1978 and has extended its coverage to about one third of the total labour force in Jordan.

There are other labour developments in Jordan which interest other countries such as measures to improve working conditions, cooperative labour relations, the content and approach of the draft labour law and the increasing rate of working women.

Secondly, labour issues are becoming major concern at all levels. Unemployment in industrialised countries is at its highest rate since World War

II. Economic recession has worsened structural unemployment in most of the developing countries. Many countries are facing difficulties in keeping social security systems solvent. All of these developments have pointed to the significance of labour matters and have induced governments, employers and workers to seek each others views.

The issues before this session are diverse. They cover all items on the gradual "restructuring" of the ALO. This includes its well-prepared budget, its work programme, an exposition of its activities in

1982. Another matter before the conference is to coordinate Arab position before the coming ILO meeting in Geneva.

There are also other substantive items on the agenda which will each be discussed by a special technical committee. These include wage policies, labour administration, social services for workers, and the strategy of manpower development.

As a host country, Jordan has undertaken all arrangements before and during the Arab Labour Conference. Its conclusions, however, will depend on the participants.

Will the 7th meeting offer any realistic answers to the world's real problems?

Non-aligned summit — prospects and expectations

By Dr. Ranko Petkovic

The seventh summit of the non-aligned countries, which will be held in New Delhi from March 7 to 11, will be faced with the task of offering realistic answers to the following questions:

— How to prevent the world hurtling into new conflict situations and the eruption of a world nuclear conflict, the prospect of which would be unforeseeable?

— How to halt the further deterioration of the state of affairs in the world economy and international economic relations and what should be undertaken to speed up the establishment of the new international economic order?

— What should be done to put a peaceful end to the disputes and conflicts amongst the non-aligned countries and how to prevent these disputes from multiplying and thereby facilitating the infiltration of the big powers and bringing about a decrease in the action capacity of the Non-Aligned Movement?

— What should be done to increase the efforts and the effectiveness of the U.N. in the preservation of peace and security and how to ensure the full implementation of U.N. decisions and recommendations?

— What measures should be taken to strengthen the solidarity of the non-aligned and increase the action capacity of the movement?

In the movement of non-alignment, which accepts ideological and political pluralism, differences in interests and views are the expression of the full equality of all participants. As the movement's member countries

are situated in different geopolitical regions and enjoy different civilisation heritages, they are steadfast in their independent and non-bloc stance in as much as it is possible, given objective and subjective political, economic and military-strategic factors. At the seventh conference in New Delhi they are expected to conduct a debate on a number of important controversial questions with an impressive level of agreement on vital common interests.

One of the major subjects to be discussed by the non-aligned will be the question of the stance vis-a-vis the blocs, which aspire at being the personification of social models. Discussion will focus especially on the armed interventions of the big powers and their "protégés". Also to be discussed is the general position of the non-aligned on the conduct and activity of those responsible for domination and hegemony on the global and regional level — from Central and South East Asia and the Middle East to southern Africa and the Caribbean.

The second domain of major interest will comprise questions of international relations, with special accent on the responsibility of the various international factors for the alarming state of the world economy. The non-aligned will devote special attention to the differences in the interests of the developing countries themselves and to the ways and means of breaking the shackles of the existing economic order.

What is the basis for the expectations that the seventh conference will give an important contribution to the strengthening of the solidarity and effectiveness of the non-aligned countries in the years to come, bearing in mind all

the difficulties facing the movement?

Firstly, it must be stressed that the increase in the number of disputes and conflicts, despite their negative consequences, has not led to deeper or broader division in the movement of non-alignment and neither has it led to a decrease in the activity of the non-aligned in the United Nations and other important fora of international relations.

Secondly, there has been a marked decrease in the militancy of those in the movement who put forward or transmit bloc concepts, both in the case of those who support the theory of the so-called natural alliance with one bloc, or those who, in the interest of the other bloc, would wish to bring the movement of non-alignment to a position of passive, neutralist equidistance vis-a-vis the big powers.

Thirdly, the stepped-up danger of local and more extensive aggression, the increased instability of the entire economic system and the periodical paralysis of major channels of international communications, especially of certain regional and sub-regional organisations, emphasise the joint responsibility and direct concern of the non-aligned to increase the degree of their unity and the effectiveness of their activity in order to bring the world out of the deadlock brought about by the big world powers.

To all this must be added the fact that India, as host of the seventh conference, is a country which is objectively in a position to ensure the maximum level of unanimity on all the most important questions for the future joint activity of the non-aligned.

— Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug features



Tito, Nasser and Nehru at Briuni, Yugoslavia, in 1956 — the first multilateral meeting of the Non-aligned

Romania now appears to be over its financial crisis

By Jonathan Lynn

Reuter

BUCHAREST — Romania, which a year ago seemed to be heading for a Polish-style debt crisis, now appears to be over its financial problems, according to Western diplomats in Bucharest.

Supplies to the home market have improved, but though Romanians can loosen their belts a few notches, they face continued austerity for some time, the diplomats believe. They question whether Romania's economy can even run at full efficiency under the country's strictly centralised political system, despite efforts over the past year to cut energy consumption and boost productivity. "They seem to be out of the woods on the financial side," one diplomat said.

Stelian Maria, a director in the finance ministry, told Reuters in an interview this week that Romania would not seek to delay any debt payments to Western banks and governments next year, as it had to do this year and last. Early in 1982 Bucharest had a Western debt burden of nearly \$11 billion and stopped payments for imports, while Romanians faced the worst food shortages since World War II.

But the debt problem was largely because the bulk of repayments were bunched in the early 1980s. This was aggravated by rising interest rates, and Western banks' nervousness about Eastern Europe in view of the Polish debt crisis. Negotiations with banks last year to delay payment of \$2.3 billion owed in 1981 and 1982 were tough but talks this year have gone

speedily, building on last year's experiences. Romania hopes by mid-May for a formal agreement with banks delaying payment of \$600 million owed this year, and will soon start talks with Western governments on delaying payment of some \$150 million Mr. Maria said.

Repayments will be easier in future as the amount due declines from recent peaks. Interest rates are falling, and bankers' concern has moved from East Europe to Latin America. The trade surpluses needed to pay off the debts have been achieved by cutting imports rather than boosting exports. Official figures show that hard-currency imports slumped to \$4.7 billion in 1982 from seven billion in 1981, while exports fell to \$6.2 billion from 7.2 billion.

Good harvest

The import squeeze as well as poor distribution and a farming system offering few incentives caused food shortages in a country with some of Europe's richest farmland. But a good harvest last year, with a record grain crop of more than 22 million tonnes, has improved matters. Western diplomats said feared shortages had not materialised this winter, with apples, eggs, lettuce and leeks in good supply, but meat and some dairy products remained scarce. Everyone has enough to eat, according to Romanian officials. One state planning committee official said Romanians consumed more than 3,400 calories per head daily, one of the top 10 levels in the world, and ate 62 kilos of meat a year.

Indira Gandhi faces a string of difficulties

By Jeremy Cliff

Reuter

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi faces over the chairmanship of next week's non-aligned summit with her standing running high internationally but facing a string of difficulties at home. Her most pressing problem is the troubled month East Indian state of Assam where troops moved into to suppress parts of Brahmaputra valley March 2 after a month of bloodshed in which at least 2,500 people died and 230,000 were made homeless.

But she is also faced with continued agitation in the northern farming state of Punjab where militant Sikhs are demanding religious and political concessions. In the past six weeks, the 65-year-old premier has carried out a major shake up in her ruling Congress (I) Party and a two-stage government reshuffle to boost the administration's image and performance.

The changes followed humiliating defeats for her party in early January in two former southern state bastions of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The treatment apparently worked. The Congress confounded forecasts of opposition gains and scored a notable triumph in subsequent elections in the Indian capital of New Delhi. Mrs. Gandhi, with her hawk-like feature and distinctive white streak in her hair, is one of the Third World's longest serving prime ministers. She has been in office — with a three year gap between 1977-80 — since 1966.

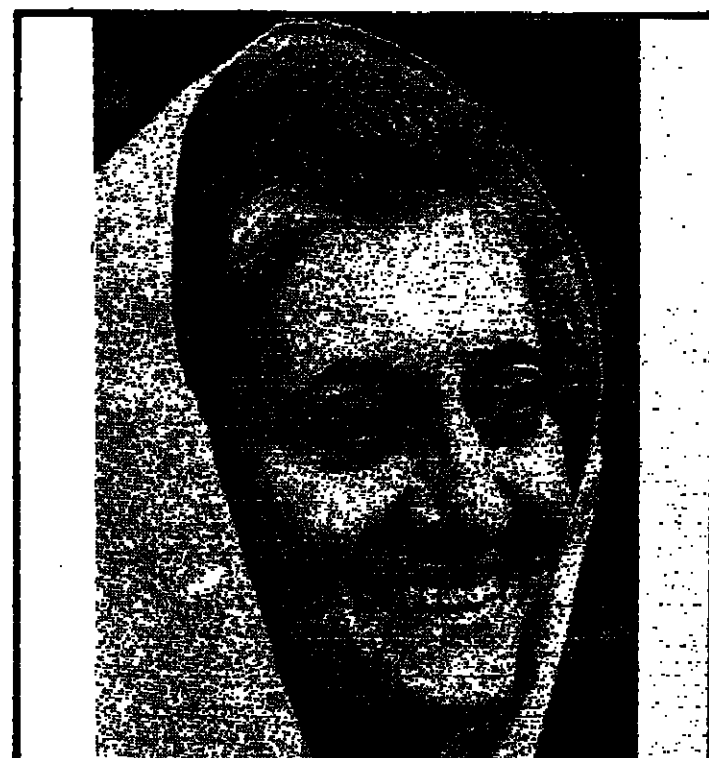
Her father, India's first post-independence Prime Minister

Jawaharlal Nehru, was one of the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement. Internationally, she is widely considered by Third World diplomats as an ideal chairman of the movement, with her country of almost 700 million people finely balanced between the superpowers.

Mrs. Gandhi says she wants to steer the grouping away from controversy and towards consensus during the summit, to be attended by kings, presidents and premiers from across the globe. Western diplomats say India is more likely to chart a more independent course for the movement which they

say look a Pro-Soviet tilt under Cuba's chairmanship.

But despite her international appeal, Mrs. Gandhi is judged on more basic issues at home. Press commentators say public disquiet about alleged widespread corruption led to her party's stunning defeats in southern India. The tough-minded premier has absolved herself from direct responsibility for the Assam bloodbath and rejected opposition demands in parliament that she quit. It would be terrible for Assam if I resigned, she told a New Delhi press conference.



سكس على السلام

WORLD

Hawke businesslike after victory

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's second Labour Party government since 1949 should be formed and ruling by the end of this week. Prime Minister-elect Bob Hawke said Sunday.

Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, whose conservative coalition government suffered a crushing 5.5-per-cent swing against it in Saturday's general election, said in a statement he would formally resign later Sunday.

Mr. Hawke told a news conference in Canberra that he expected the handover of power to be completed next Friday when the new government would be sworn in.

Vote-counting was still going on Sunday, but the electoral office said Labour was assured of a majority of at least 20 and probably 25 seats in the 125-seat Lower House compared with the outgoing Fraser government's 21-seat advantage.

The Senate, Parliament's watchdog upper chamber, will remain evenly divided with the balance of power held by the small Democratic Party which is sympathetic to most Labour policies.

Mr. Hawke, elected on a promise to unite the nation and attack an unemployment rate of 10.4 per cent and an annual inflation rate of 11 per cent, said he would announce his cabinet after a party meeting on Thursday.

Questioned on foreign policy, he said Bill Hayden, the man he replaced as Labour leader a month ago on the day Mr. Fraser called the snap election, would be foreign minister.

One of his priorities would be to establish a good working relationship with the Indonesian government as soon as possible, he said, and Mr. Hayden would make an early visit to Jakarta.

The Labour Party has condemned Indonesia's annexation in 1975 of the former Portuguese colony, East Timor, but Mr. Hawke said: "We will be trying to re-establish strong constructive relations with Indonesia."

He said he foresaw no problems in continuing close relations with the United States, particularly over the use of Australian bases by American forces.

He also said he had no immediate plans to withdraw a small Australian contingent from the Sinai peacekeeping force but said the matter would be reviewed because it was not run by the United Nations.

CANBERRA (R) — Bob Hawke, a shirt-sleeved populist with great oratorical skills and charm, captured Australia's highest office only a month after assuming the leadership of the Labour Party.

Mr. Hawke, untried at government, entered parliament only three years ago after a long and successful career as leader of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

His prominent role in settling every major Labour dispute in the country during the 1970s earned him the nickname of Australia's

"second" prime minister, while his public battle with alcoholism and his commitment to improving the lot of the average worker made him an Australian folk hero.

As prime minister for the next three years, Mr. Hawke, 53, will have to draw on all his legendary negotiating skills and personal popularity to pull the country out of its worst recession since World War II.

Mr. Hawke pinned Labour's campaign on a promise to conclude a social compact between unions, management and government to reduce Australia's 10 per cent unemployment rate and 11 per cent inflation, and revive the once-booming economy.

His rapport with the unions will be put to the test when he takes over the reins of government from Mr. Malcolm Fraser.

The campaign revealed as much about his personality differences as their conflicting attitudes toward the unions.

Mr. Hawke, scorned suits for shirtsleeves, scored points with his fist-waving oratory and promises of tax cuts and more power for workers.

Mr. Fraser, sombre in grey-pin striped suits and speaking in his habitual monotone, described Labour promises as union-dominated economic folly which would bankrupt many businesses.

Mr. Fraser, the second-longest serving prime minister in the country's history, also called the Labour leader a "madman".

The climax of the campaign came when Mr. Fraser told voters their money would be safer under the bed than in the bank if Labour were elected. But Mr. Hawke drew laughter by retorting the prime minister had always said the Communists hid there.

Another highlight of the campaign was Mrs. Fraser's public admission that she, like many of Australia's women voters, found Mr. Hawke "sexy".

Mr. Hawke's good looks and reputation as a ladies' man are part of his strong populist appeal.

The son of a rural preacher, Mr. Hawke entered the Guinness Book of Records for drinking two and a half pints of beer (almost 1.5 litres) in 12 seconds at Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship.

Later, Mr. Hawke gave up alcohol, modified his earthy language, and entered parliament for the first time in 1980 after an earlier attempt in 1963 failed.

His reputation as both an intellectual and down-to-earth moderate bringing him support from both left-wing union leaders as well as from some employers who admire his ability to negotiate an end to crippling strikes.

Mr. Hawke has said he lost some of his radicalism over the years and now believes only "consensus politics" can achieve success in present economic conditions.

Old Assam killings now found out

MANGALDAI, India (R) — Mobs killed at least 190 people, mostly immigrant Muslims from Bangladesh, during two days of violence last month in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, a police official has said.

Unofficial estimates put the death toll at 500 in this latest incident of massacre in Assam.

The massacre occurred on Feb. 14 and 15 during voting in state elections that turned out to be the bloodiest in India.

At least 2,600 people were officially estimated to have died and tens of thousands were made homeless around the time of the election when militant Assamese campaigned for illegal immigrants to be deported from the state.

The official said the latest massacre took place on a virtually inaccessible river island about 25 kilometres from here. Children and old men were among the victims.

He said indigenous Assamese Hindus raided 13 villages on the Chaulkhowa Chapori Island apparently to avenge attacks by Muslim inhabitants.

The state has been calm since troops moved into trouble spots in central Brahmaputra Valley last Tuesday with powers to make searches and arrests without warrant and seize arms.

Mangal dai in Darrang district has been a major trouble spot since police shot dead 16 people early last month in the run-up to the elections.

The Indian Express newspaper quoted survivors of the island massacre as saying thousands of Assamese Hindus mounted the assault after destroying bridges and setting up roadblocks to prevent police reaching the area.

The paper said the island's inhabitants tried to resist but were heavily outnumbered by the Assamese, who were armed with bows and arrows and spears.

The Express said the authorities did not learn about the killings for some time because most of the survivors fled to remote villages.

Playwright buried in St. Louis

ST LOUIS, Missouri (R) — Playwright Tennessee Williams was buried Saturday in St. Louis, the city where he spent his boyhood and young manhood.

The author, who was found dead in a New York hotel room last week at the age of 71, was interred next to his mother, Edwina Dakin Williams, after a Roman Catholic funeral mass.

More than 1,000 people attended the service, at which Williams was honoured as a poet of compassion.

The Rev. Jerome Wilkerson said: "He would seem to have remained all his life among the walking wounded... he did a lot of dying."

Friday night Broadway theatre-goers observed a minute of silence for him.

Tokyo press builds up coup rumour

TOKYO (R) — A Tokyo newspaper has quoted an unidentified air force officer as saying that members of the Japanese armed forces plotted a coup against the government in 1980, but that the plot was foiled by military police.

A front page report Saturday in the Tokyo Shimbun follows a government denial on Wednesday of similar allegations in parliament.

A minority party member had claimed that about 10,000 troops, sailors and airmen were involved in a plot to bomb the prime minister's residence with napalm and occupy Parliament.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda told reporters Saturday night that the government would not investigate the newspaper's report as it had already gone into the earlier allegation.

The report quoted the officer as saying in an interview that some army officers initially proposed the coup in 1977. Navy and air force officers joined in later.

The officer was reported to have said the group, comprising about 180 senior army, navy and air force officers, planned to arrest leaders of the government as well of the ruling and opposition parties and put Tokyo under martial law.

Delhi summit: Display of strength, weakness

By Bernard Melunsky

Reuter

NEW DELHI — The non-aligned summit which India steers from Monday has grown into a cumbersome, lumbering giant since its first meeting 22 years ago.

But while membership has mushroomed along with internal disputes, the broad aims of the seventh summit in New Delhi are the same — disarmament and a better economic deal for the world's poor.

Only 25 members were in Belgrade in 1961 when one of the movement's founders, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, staged the first summit. India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi will preside over 101 delegations this week.

Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah defined non-alignment at the Belgrade meeting as "a moral force which should become a factor of equilibrium."

President Tito raised the problems of economic relations between newly-independent members and the West.

Peaceful coexistence and disarmament were stressed at the summit, held against a background of East-West crisis. Less than a year later the world was brought to the brink of nuclear war over the Cuban missile crisis.

The next summit, with 47 delegations present, was held in 1964 in Cairo. It marked the growing importance of Egypt and Africa in the movement and helped bring world attention to the Palestinian cause.

The 1962 border war between India and China caused divisions in the movement, still heavily intent on obliterating the remnants of the colonial era.

The Cairo summit called on non-aligned countries to be vigilant against "interference by economically advanced foreign states in the internal affairs of newly-independent countries."

It laid down five conditions for admission to the movement, including strong support for national liberation movements and on military alliances within the context of great power conflicts.

By the third summit, in Lusaka in 1970, the attendance had grown to 54. In the six years since Cairo, the Vietnam War had become a major issue.

The Lusaka summit concentrated on Vietnam and the Arab-Israeli conflict following the 1967 Middle East war. It also highlighted nationalist struggles in southern Africa.

Barbed wire, marigolds circle conference centre

NEW DELHI (R) — Barbed wire and marigolds ring New Delhi's closely-guarded conference centre where kings, presidents and prime ministers will meet for Monday's non-aligned summit.

Delhi's broad, tree-lined avenues, laid out in the days of British rule, are draped with bunting and flags. Sprays of flowers decorate arches along the route from the airport to welcome the leaders.

But the carnival atmosphere contrasts sharply with the biggest security operation India has mounted for an international gathering.

Barricades of barbed wire have been set up on all approaches to the conference centre. Armed troops and police peer from behind bushes along the roads brimming with fresh blooms.

The gleaming white Vigyan Bhawan (House of Knowledge) conference hall has been cordoned off by Indian commandos bristling with automatic weapons.

Four luxury hotels reserved for foreign delegations have been turned into virtual fortresses. The public has been barred from the duration of the conference and marksmen have been stationed on nearby buildings.

More than 1,500 journalists from all over the world have poured into New Delhi for the sum-

mit. Cooks have been flown in from the Middle East to prepare special dishes for the Arab delegations and bullet-proof limousines ordered for heads of state.

The four hotels where the non-aligned leaders are staying are competing with each other to please their summit guests. But beef and pork have been struck off the menus after complaints from militant Hindus and Muslims.

When the Iraqi delegation objected to the carpet in the foyer of one hotel because its pattern resembled Israel's star of David, the management hastily replaced it.

One hotel has arranged for Arab music to be piped into rooms. Restaurants have been stocked with choice French wines, caviar and champagne.

Some leaders are bringing their own armed security men to provide extra protection. Iraq alone has moved in a 150-man commando squad.

The Indian government has clamped restrictions on possible trouble makers. Officials said about 50 Iranians and Afghans in the capital had been banned from moving around the city during the conference.

Newsman complain about being barred from the conference hall.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poll says Reagan should not re-run

NEW YORK (R) — A majority of Americans, 57 per cent, do not want President Reagan to run for re-election, according to a New-sweek poll. The poll of 1,006 people, conducted by Gallup for News-week magazine last week, gave vice President George Bush the strongest support among Republicans as their presidential candidate if Mr. Reagan did not run.

Italian magistrate arrives in Sofia

VIENNA (R) — The Italian magistrate conducting investigations into an international arms and heroin network based in Trento arrived in Sofia Saturday, the official Bulgarian BTA news agency reported. Magistrate Carlo Palermo said he had come to Bulgaria to interrogate Bekir Celebi, a Turk for whom an international warrant has been issued in Italy on charges of heading an organisation involved in arms and drug smuggling throughout the world. The director of the BTA news agency, Boyan Traikov, told journalists Mr. Celebi was under the control of Bulgarian authorities, meaning he was at liberty but not allowed to leave the country.

India to buy 30 more Jaguars

NEW DELHI (R) — India has agreed to buy about 30 more Anglo-French Jaguars to strengthen its fleet of strike aircraft, informed sources said. They said the agreement was signed recently by the Indian defence ministry and British Aerospace, makers of the deep-penetration strike aircraft. The sources said the planes would be delivered in knocked-down condition for assembly in India. The deal would increase the number of Jaguars in the Indian Air Force to around 115.

Pakistani survivors not prosecuted

KARACHI (R) — Nearly 40 followers of a Muslim girl saint jumped with her into the ocean in tin boxes after she assured them her spiritual powers would carry them all to the shores of Iraq, Shia Muslim sources said Saturday. But 18 of the Pakistanis, including the 18-year-old holy girl Nasim Fatimah, died in the sea near Karachi. Their bodies were later found by police and coastguards. The sources said 20 survivors of the bizarre pilgrimage had now flown to Baghdad to visit holy shrines in Iraq at the expense of a local philanthropist. Pakistan authorities said earlier they might be charged with attempted suicide.

Capsized Chinese ferry re-floated

PEKING (R) — A river ferry which overturned near Canton last Tuesday with the loss of about 150 lives has been refloated and 79 bodies have been recovered, a local newspaper reported. The Yangcheng Evening News said in Saturday's edition that divers had worked day and night to pull out the bodies. Eighty-six people were rescued from the ferry, Red Star 312, which overturned in a storm on the West River at Sanshui, 70 kilometres from Canton. More than 220 people were aboard, but the exact number was not known because young children did not have to buy tickets.

China to rejoin ILO in June

GENEVA (R) — China, which plans to resume its participation in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in June after a 34-year absence, will take Canada's place among the 10 permanent members of the ILO's governing body. The ILO said in a statement it had agreed on a new list of the 10 states having permanent seats on the governing body, which groups 28 government members, 14 employer members and 14 worker members. As part of its agreement to return to the ILO, of which it was a founding member in 1919, Peking will not have to pay the \$36.4 million it owes the ILO in unpaid membership fees.

Lovesick sexton inspires lottery sales marathon in Italian town

TORRE ANNUNZIATA, Italy (R) — A church sexton who tried to knife his priest in a quarrel about a woman set off a boom in lottery sales in this town near Naples.

Police rushed to the church of Immacolata on Wednesday evening when parishioners reported that 60-year-old Sexton Giovanni Astarita was chasing Father Giovanni Manzoni round the altar with a knife.

They told reporters they arrived just in time to stay the sexton's hand as he pinned the priest, also 60, against the wall.

"He's got two women and he promised me one," the sexton cried as he was taken away for psychiatric care. "Instead he just gave me a hernia from ringing the bells."

After rapid calculations, local people bought up lottery numbers linked to the event in magic lore — 22 for the madman, 41 for the knife, 81 for the sexton and 84 for the church.

Their faith in numbers was rewarded. Numbers 22 and 41 came up in the Naples lottery Saturday and the Turin lottery threw up 81 and 84.

Warsaw arrests leading Solidarity official

WARSAW (R) — Police have arrested a prominent official of the banned Solidarity union in Warsaw as authorities pursue a campaign against national and local activists 14 months after the military crackdown.

The detention of journalist Jan Malachowski, 58, on Wednesday was carried out as reports reached Warsaw of action against other union figures in different parts of the country.

Mr. Malachowski's wife, who is paralysed and requires her husband's help to eat and move around, quoted a lawyer as telling her that he was formally arrested on Friday evening. She did not know

what charges were preferred against him.

Apart from a case against seven main Solidarity leaders and a trial expected to open within the next month of five members of the KOR dissident movement, which was associated with the union, numerous cases are under way against lesser members.

Mr. Malachowski, a member of the union's national commission and deputy chairman of the Warsaw region's watchdog body the review commission, was taken from his home on Wednesday evening after police searched it. Mr. Malachowski, an employee of the state broadcasting service,

was interned with thousands of other Solidarity officials when the military took over in Dec. 1981 and held for four months. During that time he suffered a minor heart attack and has since been retired from work.

Mrs. Malachowski said he was questioned at home about who he had been meeting recently but refused to answer.

Government officials have said the fight against "political opposition" will go on for years.

Solidarity sources in Katowice said the provincial court in the southern industrial city sentenced a former union activist there to three years in prison last week for

setting up an underground organising committee under martial law.

The sources said he had been tried not with union activity but with setting up a criminal gang.

Five Solidarity officials went on trial in the northern town of Elblag on Thursday charged with causing a disturbance at an internment camp in Kwidzyn, north of Bydgoszcz, last summer.

The trial of Anna Walentynowicz, a former welder and crane driver who was a symbolic figure in the early formative days of Solidarity, is due to start on Wednesday in Gruzdzadz, about 200 km northeast of Warsaw.

Whereabouts of Joshua Nkomo mysterious

HARARE (R) — The Bulawayo home of opposition leader Joshua Nkomo has been ransacked and there are bloodstains in a staff bedroom, according to reporters who visited the house Sunday.

Mr. Nkomo vanished Saturday as troops swooped on black suburbs of the Matabeleland provincial capital searching for anti-government rebels and arms.

One of Mr. Nkomo's advisers said Sunday he had left his home in the Pelandaba suburb before troops arrived Saturday.

Security sources said up to 1,000 people may have been detained in Saturday's operation and residents said the search was continuing Sunday.

Reporters who visited Mr. Nkomo's property in the black suburb of Pelandaba said rooms had been ransacked and one bed in the staff quarters was covered in bloodstains.

They said the windows of two cars belonging to Mr. Nkomo's ZAPU Party — one a green Volvo station wagon frequently used by

Mr. Nkomo — had been smashed. People living nearby said they believed one member of Mr. Nkomo's staff might have been killed. There was no body and no confirmation from any other quarter.

The whereabouts of Mr. Nkomo, 65, remained a mystery Sunday though the adviser said he believed the veteran nationalist was fit and well and staying in a "safe house" with relatives.

ZAPU Vice-President Josiah Chinamano said he had tried wit-

hout success to establish contact with the party leader and added that he was greatly concerned.

"I have not heard anything at all," Mr. Chinamano said. "I have telephoned all the people I know. It is very worrying. A person of his stature should not just disappear."

Security sources said that about half the people arrested Saturday would probably be freed after screening and the remainder held for deeper interrogation.

British queen to condole families of 3 dead agents

YOSEMITE, California (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth, shocked and saddened by the deaths of three U.S. secret service agents who had guarded her and Prince Philip, will send messages of sympathy to their families Sunday, a British spokesman said.

The agents were killed in a road collision while driving to join the security force protecting the royal couple during their weekend stay in Yosemite National Park, in central California.

The agents were 20 minutes ahead of the royal party when they were involved in a head-on collision with a police car 15 kilometres east of the old gold rush

town of Coulterville.

The queen's motorcade of 18 cars had to make a detour because of the accident, the scene of which was visible to the royal couple.

Queen Elizabeth looked solemn when she stopped at the park's inspiration point to gaze across a canyon to the sheer rock face of the 2,307 metres El Capitan mountain.

A spokesman for the local sheriff's force, Lt. Jerry Neil, said that 10 minutes after the accident the force received a telephone call warning them that a man with a rifle had been seen near the royal route.

He described the call as a hoax.

Turkish generals still not done with new proposals

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's ruling generals begin studying proposed laws this week on regulating political parties when elected government is restored late this year or early in 1984.

As in all other major decisions since they seized power amid political violence and turmoil in Sept. 1980, the generals will have the last word on this key issue.

Draft party laws drawn up by a constitutional committee of the military-appointed national consultative assembly were passed by the assembly in altered form last week.

The five generals on the ruling National Security Council (NSC) will now consider both the original draft and the amended proposals before settling on a final version

which will become law. It is not clear how long they will take, but, as several newspaper commentators have pointed out, time is running short if the generals are to keep to their own timetable.

The NSC has said that general elections will be held this autumn, barring unforeseen circumstances. Draft articles accepted by the consultative assembly and virtually certain to be confirmed by the NSC include a ban on any future criticism by any party of the 1980 military takeover.

The draft also reaffirms articles in the new constitution barring about 100 former party leaders, including former prime minister Süleyman Demirel and Bulent Ecevit, from politics for 10 years.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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NORTH
 ♠ K 6
 ♥ 9 3
 ♦ Q 10 9 6 5
 ♣ A 10 5 4
EAST
 ♠ 9 5 4 2
 ♥ K 8 4 2
 ♦ 8 2
 ♣ 9 3 2
SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 8 3
 ♥ A Q 5
 ♦ K J 3
 ♣ J 7 6

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1NT Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Pass
 Opening lead: Nine of ♣.

There is no excuse for not being able to count up to nine. Indeed, you don't even have to go beyond your fingers!

The bidding was simple enough. However, all too many times we have seen some weird contract reached when North feels it incumbent upon him to jump to three diamonds in response to his partner's opening bid — "But partner, I had a five-card suit." Even worse is when North opts to bid two diamonds and languishes there. Although North has only nine points, he does have a fair five-card suit and

good intermediates, so his jump to the no trump game is fully justified.

With his useless hand, West chose a top-of-nothing lead. It had tremendous, though undeserved, success. Declarer played low from dummy. East won the queen and shifted to the jack of hearts. Declarer tried the finesse. West took his king and continued hearts, and the defenders could not be prevented from scoring at least three heart tricks, the ace of diamonds and a club. Down one.

Once the ace of diamonds is forced out, declarer has at least nine tricks. Therefore, there is no need to jeopardize his contract by playing a low club from dummy. If declarer rises with the ace, the defenders cannot get more than two tricks in that suit because the combined 7-10 guarantee a second stopper. Declarer can then proceed to knock out the ace of diamonds, and use the king of spades as an entry to the table, if necessary, to run the suit. At worst, correct defense will hold declarer to his contract. If the defenders try to beat him in the club suit, he will make an over-trick.

Will we ever see the day when there is a home computer at every bridge table to assist in the counting process?

مركز الدراسات والبحوث